

Remarks

Claims 1-10 and 12-40 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-40 are rejected. Claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Claims 1, 4-6, 8, 10, 13, 16, 17, and 21-40 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated August 26, 2003 for the above-identified patent application from November 26, 2003 through and including February 26, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of \$950.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1-40 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Williams et al. (US2002/0032573) is respectfully traversed.

Williams et al. describe a system that provides for a hierarchical definition of organizational units within an enterprise (paragraph 114). For example, the system provides for a definition of sites, groups within a site, and users within a group (paragraph 114). The system provides each enterprise with a flexibility to determine a manner in which the enterprise defines such organizational units, and a manner in which the enterprise defines shipping policies and privileges for users in its organization (paragraph 114). For example, a large company with many offices may decide to define each address as a distinct site (paragraph 114). Another large company with thousands of people in a particular location may decide to define different departments as distinct sites (paragraph 114). Each enterprise has a super-administrator who is given the highest level of privileges and authority to define sites, groups, and other administrators (sub-administrators) (paragraph 119). Sub-administrators can perform the same functions as super-administrators for a hierarchical level (e.g., site, or group) for which the sub-administrator is defined unless the super-administrator, or some higher-level sub-administrator has restricted their level to do so (paragraph 119). Administrative user interface features are accessible through an administrator's computer (53) client machine (50) (paragraph 117). The system provides the administrator with an ability to maintain user security

information through such options as resetting a user's password, requiring that a user's or a group of user's passwords be changed on next use, and suspending or reactivating a user's account or password (paragraph 128).

Claim 1 recites a method for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method comprising the steps of "receiving shipping information from a user via the device; comparing the shipping information against pre-stored information; selecting at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping information; displaying the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information; and defining at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier."

Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method including the steps of receiving shipping information from a user via the device, comparing the shipping information against pre-stored information, selecting at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping information, displaying the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information, and defining at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier.

Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest defining at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier. Rather, Williams et al. describe resetting a user's password, requiring that a user's or a group of user's passwords be changed on next use, and suspending or reactivating a user's account or password. Accordingly, Williams et al. do not teach defining at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to a shipping carrier. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claims 2-9 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-9 are considered in combination with the recitations of

Claim 1, Applicant submits that Claims 2-9 likewise are patentable over Williams et al.

Claim 10 recites a method for selecting at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method comprising the steps of “authenticating a user via at least one of a first user identification number and a first password before accessing a shipping wizard configured to select an optimum shipping method; authenticating the user via at least one of a second user identification number and a second password after accessing the shipping wizard and before accessing a maintenance wizard configured to maintain the centralized database; and launching at least one of the shipping wizard and the maintenance wizard.”

Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a method for selecting at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method including the steps of authenticating a user via at least one of a first user identification number and a first password before accessing a shipping wizard configured to select an optimum shipping method, authenticating the user via at least one of a second user identification number and a second password after accessing the shipping wizard and before accessing a maintenance wizard configured to maintain the centralized database, and launching at least one of the shipping wizard and the maintenance wizard.

Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest authenticating the user via at least one of a second user identification number and a second password after accessing the shipping wizard and before accessing a maintenance wizard configured to maintain the centralized database. Rather, Williams et al. describe accessing administrative user interface features through an administrator's computer client machine and maintenance of user security information by the administrator. Accordingly, Williams et al. do not teach authenticating the user after accessing the shipping wizard and before accessing a maintenance wizard. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 10 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claim 11 has been canceled. Claim 12 depends from independent Claim 10. When the recitations of Claim 12 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 11, Applicant submits that Claim 12 likewise is patentable over Williams et al.

Claim 13 recites a method for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method comprising the steps of “authenticating a user via a first set of pre-defined criteria before providing access to a shipping wizard configured to provide an optimum shipping method; accessing a maintenance user interface after the user has been authenticated based on the first set of pre-defined criteria; authenticating the user via a second set of pre-defined criteria after the user has been authenticated based on the first set of pre-defined criteria and before providing capabilities to the user to maintain the centralized database; and providing capabilities to the user to maintain the centralized database.”

Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier using a network-based system including a server coupled to a centralized database and at least one device connected to the server via a network, the method including the steps of authenticating a user via a first set of pre-defined criteria before providing access to a shipping wizard configured to provide an optimum shipping method, accessing a maintenance user interface after the user has been authenticated based on the first set of pre-defined criteria, authenticating the user via a second set of pre-defined criteria after the user has been authenticated based on the first set of pre-defined criteria and before providing capabilities to the user to maintain the centralized database; and providing capabilities to the user to maintain the centralized database.”

Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest authenticating the user via a second set of pre-defined criteria after the user has been authenticated based on the first set of pre-defined criteria and before providing capabilities to the user to maintain the centralized database. Rather, Williams et al. describe accessing administrative user interface features through an administrator's computer client machine and maintenance of user security information by the administrator.

Accordingly, Williams et al. do not teach authenticating the user after an authentication based on the first set of pre-defined criteria and before providing capabilities to maintain the centralized database. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claims 14 and 15 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant submits that Claims 14 and 15 likewise are patentable over Williams et al.

Claim 16 recites a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier, the system comprising “a client sub-system comprising a browser; a centralized database for storing carrier information; a server sub-system configured to be coupled to said client sub-system and said centralized database, said server sub-system further configured to: receive shipping information from a user via the client sub-system; compare the shipping information against pre-stored information; select at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping information; display the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information; and accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier.”

Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a web-based shipping system for facilitating selection of at least one shipping carrier, the system including a client sub-system including a browser, a centralized database for storing carrier information, a server sub-system configured to be coupled to the client sub-system and the centralized database, the server sub-system further configured to receive shipping information from a user via the client sub-system, compare the shipping information against pre-stored information, select at least one shipping carrier which matches the shipping information, display the selected shipping carrier based on the shipping information, and accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier.

Specifically, Williams et al. do not describe or suggest a server sub-system configured to accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier. Rather, Williams et al.

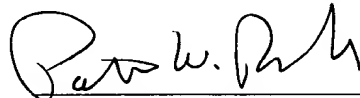
describe resetting a user's password, requiring that a user's or a group of user's passwords be changed on next use, and suspending or reactivating a user's account or password. Accordingly, Williams et al. do not teach a server sub-system configured to accept at least one of a user identification number and a password for each department related to the at least one shipping carrier. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 13 is submitted to be patentable over Williams et al.

Claims 14-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 13. When the recitations of Claims 14-40 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicant submits that Claims 14-40 likewise are patentable over Williams et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-40 be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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